

REMARKS

In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have amended the Specification to make reference to the continuation of related U.S. application data. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Applicants request priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/147,931 filed May 17, 2002 (pending); which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/966,126, filed September 28, 2001 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,496,897); which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/859,097, filed May 14, 2001 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,493,789); which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/480,825, filed January 10, 2000 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,266,737); which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/545,294, filed October 19, 1995 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,035,369).

Applicants request entry of the foregoing amendment prior to examination of this application. No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 15, 2003

By: 

Kirk J. DeNiro
Reg. No. 35,854

VIERRA MAGEN MARCUS HARMON & DENIRO LLP
685 Market Street, Suite 540
San Francisco, CA 94105-4206
Telephone: (415) 369-9660
Facsimile: (415) 369-9665